

REMARKS

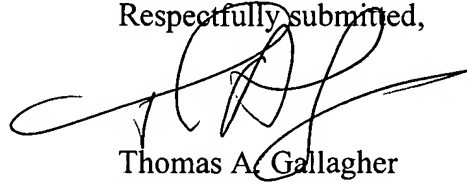
Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 3, 6, and 13-15 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-12, and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Prueter et al. in view of Streuker et al.

All of the claims require “spring biased product and vent valves” or “spring biased product and vent flow control means”. The Examiner has correctly determined that Prueter et al. does not disclosed spring biased valves. However, the Examiner mistakenly states that Streuker et al. shows “spring biased product (72) and vent (32) valves”.

It is respectfully submitted that the assembly at and around reference numeral 72 in Streuker et al. is a ball valve which has no spring associated with it. It relies solely on gravity for it to close. Thus, even if Prueter et al. were freely combined with Streuker et al. the combination would still not result in the invention claimed herein. Moreover, there is no suggestion in the art of record that this combination should be made. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to make the combination “[i]n order to create a spray device with more economically feasible parts.” However, the Examiner has not presented any evidence in the prior art that spring biased valves are more economical than other types of valves. Intuitively, one would think that a valve that requires a spring would be less economical than a valve that does not require a spring.

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in order for allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Gallagher', is written over the typed name.

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